SASKATOON metro®

Emergency response teams come together

Police, firefighters, paramedics unite for a mass drill PAGE 2

Alberta: Wild iPhone country

Report reveals who buys what smartphones in Canada PAGE 4

PLAYING PUCK OR PUSHING PETROL?

HOCKEY CANADA, NIKE REVEAL NEW SOCHI OLYMPIC JERSEYS TO EXCITEMENT — AND SOME CRITICISM ... SOMETHING TO DO WITH PETRO CANADA PAGE 3

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Eve Adams, parliamentary secretary to federal Minister of Health Rona Ambrose, does yoga with students at a funding announcement in Saskatoon on Tuesday morning. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Saskatoon leading battle against obesity

Health. Ministry calls child obesity in Canada 'epidemic'

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Saskatoon's health professionals are leading the way in addressing childhood obesity — attracting attention from across the nation.

The Saskatoon Health Region's (SHR) Health Promoting School Program (HPSP) is currently operating in 20 schools within the region. Now, Island Health on Vancouver Island has adopted the program, with Saskatchewan and B.C. receiving a $1.4 million boost from the federal government.

"The funding is absolutely needed," said manager of the health promotion department with the SHR and project lead for the HPSP, Tanya Dunn-Pierce.

"Without it, we wouldn't be able to evaluate to the extent that we can," she said. "To be able to test new ideas and bring partners in so they can try new things and see that it's working … we just wouldn't have the capacity to do that."

Quoted

"We've got children ... with very serious complications from obesity."

Eve Adams, parliamentary secretary to the federal health minister

While there are a number of these health initiatives across Canada, it's the way the SHR has engaged the schools, bringing nurses and members of the community with knowledge of healthy lifestyles to the students, that's getting attention.

Eve Adams, parliamentary secretary to Federal Minister of Health Rona Ambrose, said Canada is experiencing an epidemic of childhood obesity and stakeholders across the board need to work together to address the issue.

"We've got children presenting with very serious complications from obesity, things that traditionally we only saw adults present with, things like type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure so I think it's incumbent on all of us to work together."

The $1.4 million will be used to evaluate progress made through the program while helping to expand aspects to more schools in Saskatchewan and beyond over the next four years.

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Assault charges

Three Roughriders' court appearances pushed to Oct. 30

Dwight Anderson, left, Taj Smith and Eron Riley. GETTY IMAGES

It was back to court on Tuesday for three Saskatchewan Roughriders players facing aggravated-assault charges stemming from an altercation at a Regina nightclub in mid-August.

Dwight Anderson, Eron Riley and Taj Smith had lawyers appear on their behalf in provincial court in Regina, where another appearance was scheduled for Oct. 30.

The players were arrested in September before being released with conditions that they stay away from bars. METRO

Imagine a World

Sask. musician records, performs anti-bullying song

A musician from Saskatchewan has written and recorded a song that he hopes will reduce bullying and inspire young people.

Donny Parenteau says he came up with the idea after speaking with a girl who had been bullied.

He performed the song Imagine a World on Tuesday in front of students at James L. Alexander School in Saskatoon.

Parenteau says he was bullied as a child and hopes the song will raise awareness about the problem.

He has also made a video that has been posted on YouTube, and says the song will be distributed to radio stations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emergency response teams come together for exercise

Interoperability. For the first time in Saskatoon, police, firefighters and paramedics unite for a mass emergency preparedness drill

Collaboration

"The real benefit of doing this is getting everybody together, and, hopefully, everybody will take back what they learned."

Bill Coffin, an assistant chief with Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services

JACOB MORGAN
jacob.morgan@metronews.ca

Saving lives in a disaster situation requires the co-operation of many different departments.

In the second day of Saskatoon's Exercise Domino, municipal, provincial and federal agencies united to test their strengths and weaknesses when it comes to interoperability.

"We all know our roles but we've never done it as a group," said Bill Coffin, an assistant chief with the Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services.

"The real benefit of doing this is getting everybody together, and hopefully everybody will take back what they learned."

One activity staged a scenario wherein firefighters breached the roof of a house, allowing paramedics to enter and treat a patient. Coffin said this addressed a significant gap in communication.

"Paramedics have never been allowed into any of our areas before because they don't know what we're doing so they're getting a real eye into what we do," he said.

During another simulation, a STARS Air Ambulance helicopter was on hand to show how they would transport critically injured people to the nearest hospital.

Tara Oliver, a paramedic with STARS, said that the organization mostly serves the rural areas in Saskatchewan.

"Our urban resources with MD Ambulance would be transporting the patients within the city," said Oliver. "We have one helicopter operating out of Regina, and one out of Saskatoon, so we have pretty good coverage of the province."

A pilot walks by a STARS helicopter during phase two of Exercise Domino, the mass emergency preparedness drill, on Monday afternoon near Airport Drive in Saskatoon. Video and photo gallery at metronews.ca. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

Representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces were also present as observers. Major Tom Mykytiuk, out of Edmonton, said that in a real disaster, the military's role would largely be to provide manpower.

"We could put soldiers with the firefighters to go and help look, knock on doors, see if anybody's inside, things like that," he said. "Pretty much assisting them with labour."

Participants are scheduled to have a debriefing today on the results of the drill.

Police will be cracking down on aggressive driving during a two-day blitz. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

Police look to curb aggressive driving

Police across Saskatchewan will target aggressive drivers on Thursday and Friday as part of a new safety clampdown.

Law-enforcement officers will use Operation Fall Frenzy to focus on violations such as "speeding, driving too fast for road conditions, running red lights, not stopping at stop signs, stunting, racing or passing to the right on a highway," Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) said on Tuesday in a press release.

"Deterring aggressive driving by applying enforcement is only part of the solution," explained Regina police Chief Troy Hagen.

"The real battle is changing the mindset of every driver. You don't own the road; you share it.... Lives do depend on it."

The campaign will be held in conjunction with Operation Impact, a four-day national blitz co-ordinated by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police — also targeting aggressive driving.

According to SGI, aggressive driving contributed to more than 10,000 collisions in Saskatchewan alone last year, resulting in 92 deaths and more than 4,300 injuries.

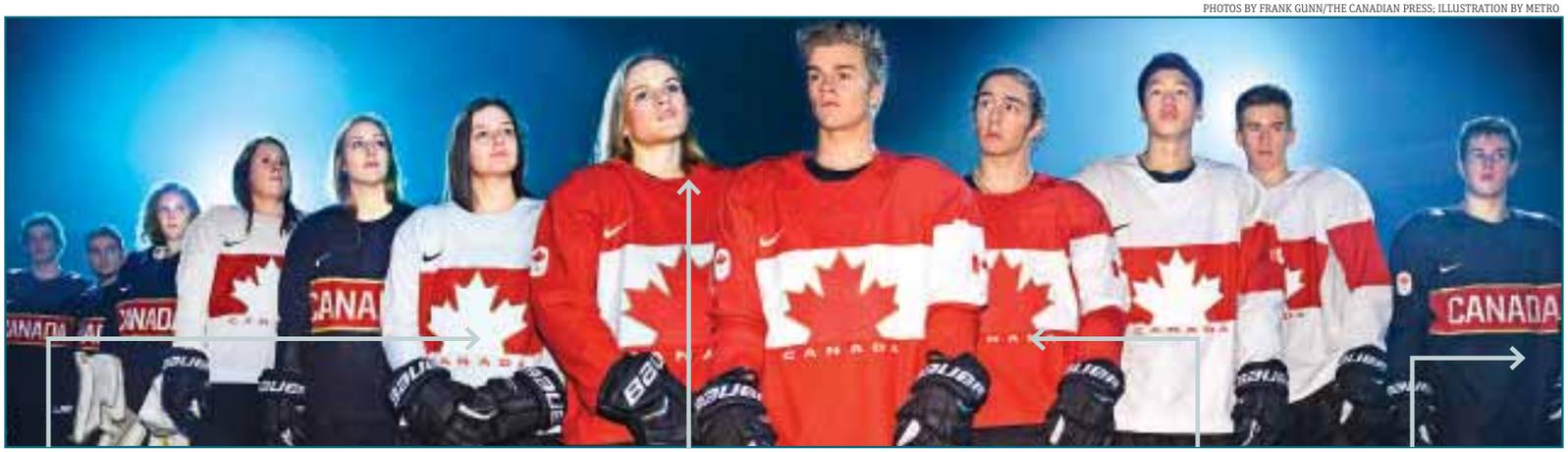
During a traffic blitz spearheaded by SGI last month, police issued 352 tickets provincewide for speeding in school zones, in addition to 483 citations for other violations.

Last year's edition of Operation Fall Frenzy resulted in 1,079 tickets, including 620 for aggressive driving.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO IN REGINA

Sochi style: Can Team Canada pull it off?

PHOTOS BY FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS; ILLUSTRATION BY METRO



Looking ahead

On the road to Sochi Olympics

More than a month after the first leak, Hockey Canada and Nike officially unveiled our hockey jerseys for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Amid club music and laser lights, youth players skated onto the ice at Maple Leaf Gardens sporting the red, white and alternate black uniforms that the men's, women's and sledge-hockey teams will wear at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The event was another marker on the road to Sochi.

THE CANADIAN PRESS AND TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The big to-do

"Their mouths dropped, a little awestruck. They didn't realize what they were here for. When they saw the jersey for the first time, it hit them like it hits any NHL guy that's going to don that jersey."

Hockey Hall of Famer and former Canadian Olympian Joe Nieuwendyk, about the teenage players from the Toronto area who were invited to model the jerseys.

Petro Canada ad?

Critics say the red and white jerseys with a stem-less maple leaf resemble Petro Canada's logo.

- But Nike's Olympic creative director Ken Black said the main inspirations for the design were Canada's 1920 and 1972 Olympic hockey jerseys.

Red, white and black

3

Canada will be the only team in Sochi with a third jersey. "The fans like black, there's no question, and so do the players. But our real colours are red and white," Hockey Canada president and CEO Bob Nicholson said.

Endangered liaisons

Spy allegations could strain Canada-Brazil military ties

A carefully cultivated military relationship with Brazil could be damaged by the unfolding spy drama involving Canada's super-secret eavesdropping agency, defence and diplomacy, experts say.

Since late spring, a platoon of Canadian soldiers has been embedded with a Brazilian army unit as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

The deployment, slated to run until Christmas, has been considered an important bridge-building effort with South America's biggest military power.

Walter Dorn, a professor at the Canadian Forces Staff College in Toronto, says the scandal will give Brazil second thoughts about Canada as a reliable partner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Hadfield. Retired astronaut turns prof

The former Canadian astronaut who gained a global audience with his musical performances in space will be taking on a new job as professor of aviation at an Ontario university.

The University of Waterloo says Chris Hadfield's first task on campus will be assisting research into why some astronauts get fainting spells when they return to Earth — knowledge it says will also be useful for elderly people prone to falling.

The school on Tuesday announced the appointment of the ex-astronaut, who retired in July shortly after getting back from five months on the International Space Station.

During the mission, Hadfield became the first Canadian commander of the space station and performed more than 130 science experiments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New allegations. Sen. Duffy in hot water again

An RCMP allegation that Sen. Mike Duffy awarded $65,000 in Senate contracts to a friend who did little actual work is the latest twist in the case of the troubled former Conservative.

The Mounties filed a production order in an Ottawa court on Tuesday to gain access to bank-account records related to the allegation. They are looking at new allegations of fraud and breach of trust against Duffy, based on fresh findings.

"That investigation determined that Sen. Duffy hired a friend as a consultant over an approximate four-year period and paid him a total of approximately $65,000 during that time, for little or no apparent work," wrote Cpl. Greg Horton, the lead investigator.

Duffy said in an email that it would be "inappropriate for me to comment while these matters are being examined by the RCMP." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta is iPhone country, according to a new survey. So naturally this woman is using an iPhone as she snaps events at last July's Calgary Stampede. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Yak, yak: Cellphones are shaping our nation

Talk, talk! Canadians are taking calls on everything from iPhones to Androids, report says

We're a diverse country. Just check our smartphones.

Alberta is iPhone country.

Toronto consumers and anglophones living in Montreal are faithful fans of BlackBerry.

Vancouverites are most into Google Android phones.

That's the message in a report by the Media Technology Monitor, which probes how consumers embrace technology.

"It isn't surprising to see that in a country as diverse as Canada you're going to see diversity not just between anglophones and francophones but also the regions as well," said MTM executive Andrea Sharkey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

65%

B.C., Manitoba and Saskatchewan were tied as the provincial leaders in social media usage, with 65 per cent saying they use Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn.

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Europe cracks down

No butts about it: Smoking a no-no

European lawmakers approved sweeping new regulations governing the multibillion-dollar tobacco market on Tuesday.

The new rules include bigger warnings on cigarette packs and a ban on menthol and other flavourings in a bid to further curb smoking.

They stopped short, however, of tough limits on electronic cigarettes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chips recalled

Pringles crying over missed milk

Pringles brand salt-and-vinegar potato chips are being recalled because they contain milk that isn't declared on the label.

The chips were sold across Canada in 168-gram packages (UPC code 0 64100 85246 4). There have been no reported illnesses linked to the product. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Condos give a boost

Housing starts up in September

The pace of housing starts picked up in September, boosted by a jump in condos, townhouses and apartments, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said Tuesday.

It said starts came in at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 193,637 last month, ahead of what economists had expected and up from 183,964 in August.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 96.45 US (- 51¢)

TSX 12,692.41 (-95.84)

OIL $103.49 US (+46¢)

GOLD $1,324.60 US (-50¢)

Natural gas: $3.72 US (+9¢)
Dow Jones: 14,776.53 (-159.71)

Super idea. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a Superman licence plate

Superman's got wheels. Ohio fans of the Man of Steel now officially can have the Superman logo on their vehicles.

A licence plate with the iconic "S" insignia and the phrase "Truth, Justice and the American Way" is on sale.

Relatives of Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were at the plate's unveiling outside the Cleveland-area home where Siegel lived.

A letter by Siegel's daughter said the men who created the comic superhero as teenagers in the 1930s would have been "absolutely thrilled."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I can just imagine them driving around ... and pointing out the plates as they spotted them."

Laura Siegel Larson, Jerry Siegel's daughter, imagining the excited reaction of the Superman creators.

Licence to thrill: The new Superman plate. GUS CHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tweet this. Confused Twitter fans give Tweeter a boost on stock market

Tweeter is not Twitter. And its stock symbol has changed to avoid confusion.

The bankrupt electronics retailer's stock resumed trading Tuesday under "THEGQ." Its old symbol was "TWTRQ."

That was apparently too similar to "TWTR," the symbol proposed by Twitter when the messaging service filed plans for its highly anticipated initial public offering.

A vacant Tweeter store in New Hampshire. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Some confused investors sent Tweeter's stock up as much as 1,400 per cent on Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A flurry of pink slips. Alcatel-Lucent will chop 10,000 jobs worldwide

Telecommunications equipment maker Alcatel-Lucent SA said Tuesday it plans to cut 10,000 jobs worldwide over the next two years.

The job cuts are part of a restructuring plan to make the French-American company more competitive.

The plan is to reduce fixed costs by cutting 1 billion euros ($1.36 billion), or about 15 per cent, by the end of 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troubled waters

The company has struggled since its inception in 2006.

- **The merger.** France's Alcatel and U.S. Lucent.
- **The rivals.** Competition quickly arose from firms in China and Sweden.

THE FUTURE IS HERE, BUT NO ONE CARES

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

If you were ever a kid, you'll remember dreaming about having your very own two-way wrist communicator.

Jimmy Olsen had one to stay in touch with Superman. All he had to do was press the button, and a cool zee-zee-zee sound would summon the Man of Steel.

In fact, anyone who was anyone in the fantasy universe had one, from Dick Tracy to Captain Kirk to Knight Rider to the Power Rangers.

Now you can have one, thanks to Samsung, which has just released the Galaxy Gear. This device gives your wrist a very high-tech panache and allows you to link up to your Galaxy phone via Bluetooth and talk at your wrist.

Too bad the fantasy is still better than the reality.

Because the Gear has no brain, i.e. SIM card, of its own, it's pretty much a local version of the phone in your pocket. And only if that phone is a Galaxy Note 3. You'll have to wait for the next version to hook up to more phones and functionality. But if you want to be the first Inspector Gadget on your block and you have $300 to spend on a half-baked idea, knock yourself out.

Still Samsung has succeeded at one thing … its outstanding commercials recapture the gee-whizzery of the wrist phone, as they take us through a gallery of fantastic applications from the comics and movies leading to the next big thing: Your BFF right there on your wrist, ready to two-way, just like Jimmy Olsen and Superman.

What's interesting is that I don't care. And neither, apparently, does anyone else.

The Galaxy Gear has been released with a big tech thud.

It's partly because the watch itself appears to be a work in progress, but the Samsung ads are technically accurate — if oversimplified — and you have to wonder why the smart wrist watch — and other gee-whizzicker products such as Google Glass — don't bring the magic.

Aren't we delighted that the future has finally arrived?

Maybe it's because now that it's here, we don't really like it. It comes with baggage, such as greenhouse gases and Miley Cyrus. And now that we can communicate without wires, it's all too obvious that most of us don't really have anything to say. Hashtag fail.

And instead of escaping into the next future, we're so freaked out by the one we're in that we can only imagine dystopian scenarios featuring the zombie apocalypse, where the zombies know where we are at all times thanks to GPS.

The Galaxy Gear is really an old-fashioned idea. It belongs in the Dick Tracy era with our collective childhood. Your real mobile device is much more powerful and just as handy.

The real future, sad to say, isn't for kids.

ZOOM

Many scribbles make light work

JANNE PARVIAINEN/REX FEATURES

Photo captured with long exposure

A light illusionist did his best to show himself and his wife suffering the hot flashes of a flu. Janne Parviainen, 33, from Helsinki, Finland, created this unsettling image using amazing light techniques and long-exposure photography. The Finn told Metro he created this dazzling light display out of boredom. **METRO**

Making light of the flu

"Having a really bad flu made me focus and concentrate on getting this photograph right. It was like a battle against the odds, but I kept telling myself I could do this."

Janne Parviainen, artist and photographer from Helsinki, Finland

How the artist pulled off the light effect

How did Parviainen pull off this mesmerizing image?

"I set up the camera for a long-exposure photograph," the artist begins. "Then, I created the lines using a flashing red and blue LED light. I was crawling and jumping from one end of the room to the next, all to make sure that every inch of the room was covered in the light." **METRO**

Exposure time in minutes

30

minutes is the time frame Parviainen used to create his long-exposure photograph. All of his surreal photographs, the Finnish photographer claims, are produced manually with no post-production alterations or enhancements.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If all that Nobel news about Francois Englert and Peter Higgs winning the physics prize for their Higgs boson work wasn't enough to turn you on to science for the week, then perhaps the amazing space-is-scary film Gravity and what astronauts have had to say about it has piqued your interest. Here's some breezy reading about science and space while you're tuned in.

This image shows a typical event in the search for the Higgs boson.
COURTESY CERN

Bad Astronomy:

Phil Plait waxes ecstatic about all things extraterrestrial in some of the friendliest wording you'll find on topics that typically trend toward dense. A word of warning: He's generous with links, so it's easy to get lost. (slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy.html)

Mother Jones:

OK, so this isn't a blog at all. But Kiera Butler, Mother Jones' science writer, is a required addition to your RSS feed for topics ranging from scary business like antibiotic overprescription to comforting news like the benefits of frozen food. (motherjones.com/authors/kiera-butler)

Planetary Society:

The writers who lovingly tend the Planetary Society blogs section are serious eggheads. But if you happen to be a quick study with genius jargon and academic acronyms, you'll soon be up to date on the Comet of the Century. Did you even know one of those was coming? (planetary.org/blogs)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: @Cmdr_Hadfield signed on as an aviation professor at the University of Waterloo. What should his first lesson be about?

@PiscesCurse: How to make a kick-ass music video from space to top all others!

@damianpenny: He should explain how Joel eats and sleeps and other science fact. #mst3k

@_J_T_V_: how to grow an Aviation spec moustache

@hilsmol: "Bad-Asstronomics 101"

@giggyalso: don't take gravity lightly

@josephinecleo: how to master the perfect side-part in space. Astronauts need to look good for the cosmos!

@rurbonas: Calculating the fastest route out of Waterloo and how to avoid Kitchener entirely.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

metro

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SCENE 2

Which celeb driver are you?

You may have moves like Jagger, but when it comes to your driving style, who is your celebrity match? Despite Canada's reputation as a modest nation, a global survey for Kijiji reveals that when it comes to cars, Canadian drivers value style over substance. In fact, as you'll see, there may be more "Beliebers" on our roads than ones saying "hit me baby one more time." METRO

Image Seekers (27 per cent)

Key values
Brand, design and style are most important.

Global average
23 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Justin Bieber — his Ferarri F430 is rumoured to be as important to him as his hair.

Efficiency Seekers (22 per cent)

Key values
Brand is less of a priority, but reliability, efficiency, and running costs matter.

Global average
22 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Leonardo DiCaprio — he loves hybrids as much as he loves Victoria's Secret models.

Performance Seekers (17 per cent)

Key values
Handling and power are higher up on the list of priorities.

Global average
17 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Jay Leno — he spends as much time shining his muscle cars or at the race tracks as he does prepping his monologues.

Necessity Drivers (19 per cent)

Key values
Say a car is just a tool to get from A to B; most likely to drive a silver or grey Chevy/Toyota/Chrysler.

Global average
17 per cent.

Celebrity Match
James Franco — whether it's luxury or not, he just needs his car to get to his next class.

Risk Takers (five per cent)

Key values
Parks carelessly, more likely to drink and drive.

Global average
11 per cent.

Celebrity Match
Lindsay Lohan— do we really need to elaborate?

Accident Prone (five per cent)

Key values
Despite less obvious risk taking they are still prone to accidents.

Global average
Six per cent.

Celebrity Match
Britney Spears — though she hasn't run over a Police officer's foot or hit a paparazzo lately.

Cautious Drivers (five per cent)

Key values
Rarely has accidents or damages their car.

Global average
Four per cent.

Celebrity Match
Betty White — her driving record is as golden as her television career.

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News worth sharing.

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

If Miley wants Liam back, she'd better make nice with the sister-in-law

Apparently another woman played a major role in the break-up of Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth, but it wasn't another girlfriend. According to Radar Online, Hemsworth's sister-in-law, Elsa Pataky, "is no fan of Miley" and urged him to break off their engagement.

"Elsa is totally against Miley and Liam getting back together. She spent the last year freezing Miley out in some kind of passive-aggressive move," a source says.

"Miley desperately wants to get back with Liam and believes she can because she's done it before. But to do that, she's going to have to win over Elsa."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Why Tom Hanks can't get down to fighting weight

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Get back, cookies. You leave our Tom Hanks alone.

The beloved star, whose film Captain Phillips comes out this week, revealed last night on the Late Show that he has Type 2 diabetes.

"I went to the doctor and she said, 'You know those high blood-sugar numbers you've been dealing with since you were 36? Well, you've graduated,'" he said to David Letterman. "'You've got Type 2 diabetes, young man.'" Hanks said his doctor did offer him an escape strategy. "She said, 'Look, if you can weigh as much as you did in high school, you will essentially be completely healthy, you will not have Type 2 diabetes.' And I said to her, 'Well, I'm going to have Type 2 diabetes.' Because there is no way I can weigh as much as I did in high school."

Come on. Tom looks like he's already in pretty good shape. He can make it. How much did he weigh in high school? "I weighed 96 pounds in high school," he claims. "And most of that was that big, wide afro."

Halle's new son gets a meaningful moniker

Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez have picked a name for their newborn son, and it's Maceo Robert Martinez, according to E! News. "They chose it because it means gift from God," a source says. "Olivier wanted to give a nod to his Spanish roots. They picked the name a while ago. They love it."

Halle Berry

Twitter

@KellyOsbourne
I have been punched in the face by men but nothing has hurt more than being head butted in the jaw by my bulldog William! my teeth even hurt

@TomArnold
Put a very comfortable day bed in your son's nursery because he'll be in your bed with mom and that's where you'll be watching Sports Center

@JuddApatow
Leslie is searching for hoarder experts for me. I think she is overreacting. I will definitely get to that issue of Time Magazine from 98.

Kate's kid dreams of a neon-green wedding

Kate Hudson and fiancé Matt Bellamy have been engaged for more than two years but have yet to set a wedding date — which is apparently a problem for Hudson's older son, nine-year-old Ryder, who has been applying "a little bit" of pressure on the actress to walk down the aisle.

"I think he looks forward to more the party than the actual idea of us getting married. He apparently wants to wear a neon green tux," Hudson tells Ellen DeGeneres during an interview. "He loves neon green. He wants to wear neon green with black. That's pretty cool. He's a bit of a fashion boy."

Kate Hudson

Drew Barrymore

A Griswolds-style family would be dandy with Drew

Drew Barrymore's first child, daughter Olive, may just be a year old, but Barrymore is ready to do the whole pregnancy thing again, telling Jay Leno during an interview that she and husband Will Kopelman "very much" want another baby — and "right away," if possible. "I grew up as an only child, and although that really works for some people and for some parents that's the way they want to do it, I want to be the Griswolds," she says. "I want the kids in the back rolling their eyes at mom and dad. I want Rusty and Audrey, theme parks and the whole nine."

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1:00PM & 5:00PM: Thursday, October 17
10:00AM & 1:00PM: Friday, October 18
Radisson Hotel, 405 20th St E, Saskatoon

10:00AM: Saturday, October 19
Room C15, Warman Campus,
Great Plains College, 201 Central St

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CAPE BRETON UNIVERSITY | Shannon School of Business

Headed to Mexico this winter? Want to go surfing? Hidden away on the Pacific Coast, the town of Puerto Escondido is generating buzz thanks to a starring role in HGTV's season premiere of Live Here, Buy This! The draw? The Mexican Pipeline, an unforgiving wave that attracts an international surfing crowd. Travel writer Michele Peterson created an app offering an insider's guide to Mexico's Surf City. Here are a few excerpts.

5 Hot spots in Puerto Escondido

Cafes & quick bites: Osa Mariposa

This hip hostel, just two blocks from the beach, appeals to backpackers and surfers. Choose from private bungalows or shared dormitories (four to a room). The clean and spacious bathrooms are superior to many others in this price range. The on-site restaurant offers a menu of tasty veggie and vegan options. Don't miss the black bean veggie burgers. Mescal and tequila figure highly at the bar. The website has a helpful map. You'll need it to find the place: osamariposa.com.

Lodging: Aqua Luna Hotel

This sleek, minimalist boutique hotel owned by an Aussie long boarder and his Mexican wife, offers a sophisticated escape in 16 rooms at wallet-friendly prices ranging from $25-$70 per night or $700 monthly for kitchenette rooms. The pearl-white walls, violet-hued swimming pool and adults-only policy creates a sensual Miami SoBe retreat, conveniently perched above Zicatela, the hippest beach with the most wave action. hotel-aqualuna.com.

Adventure/culture: Oasis Surf and Language School

Even your pre-schooler can take Spanish classes at this professional language school located in the Rinconada neighbourhood. The school offers beginner, intermediate and advanced classes as well as specialized medical Spanish for health-care professionals. A full slate of cultural activities is available, including a learn-to-surf program. The school can also arrange volunteer experiences if you'd like to give back to the community and practise your new lingo at the same time. Visit oasislanguageschool.com. A five-day week of one-and-a-half-hour language classes costs about $75 US. Surfing classes cost around $35 US per class, with discounts on packages.

Natural attractions: Zicatela Beach

The main strip flanking Calle del Morro is packed with surf shops, restaurants, cafés, hotels and booming nightclubs. If you long to feel the sand between your toes, the wide beach is dotted with loungers, Bali beds and hammocks — all free to use with the purchase of a consumo (drink or snack). This is where the epic Mexican Pipeline wave breaks, so the main draw is surfing, but you can also take yoga classes, have a massage or book an excursion all within a few block radius. Strong surf and undertow makes this beach dangerous for swimmers. The red flag is always flying but depending on the tides, it's possible to find a shallow tidal pool and splash about like a duckling.

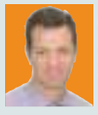
Bars & drink: Casa Babylon

Bookstore by day, nightclub by night. This unusual combination of bookstore/coffee shop and nightclub is weird enough to work. An eclectic decor of Mexican masks, Asian statues and rough-hewn furniture morphs effectively from a quiet haven into a pulsing nightclub with techno music, reggae, funk and live bands. Exchange some books, play a board game or two and then come back to party.

THE PUERTO ESCONDIDO TRAVEL ESSENTIALS APP, PACKED WITH UP-TO-DATE INSIDER TIPS, IS AVAILABLE FOR $2.99 IN THE APP STORE AT PUERTO ESCONDIDO TRAVEL ESSENTIALS OR ON GOOGLE PLAY.

Cruising

A riverboat fantasy — come true



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

The exploding popularity of river cruising is hardly surprising.

The most endearing quality of a river cruise is the intimacy it offers. A standard ship has capacity for 150 to 200 guests versus an ocean liner, which typically has 1,000-plus guests onboard. This allows you to get to know your travelling companions and removes the annoyance of having to stand in long lines to embark, disembark or simply enjoy a meal. River cruising also provides easy access to the destinations. At most stops you can wander into town from the dock or hop a short coach ride to a city centre. The distances between stops are typically much shorter than a standard cruise, allowing for the possibility of one to two stops per day and never having to spend a long day at sea. Although the most popular routes are in Europe, there are sailings available in countries as diverse as China, Russia and Vietnam.

There are various companies in the market. At the top end is Scenic Tours. They appear to be on the pricey end but bear in mind they are the only true all-inclusive river cruise company. The other big players are Uniworld, AMA, Viking and Avalon. Emerald Waterways is the latest company to ply the rivers. It is a four-star product with fewer services and a lower price point, all aimed at attracting a younger demographic.

River cruising is taking off around the world. ISTOCK

Thai take on Butternut Squash soup

1. In a stock or large soup pot over medium-low, heat the oil. Add the onions, garlic and salt and cook until the onions have softened, about 10 minutes. Stir in the ginger and curry paste and cook for a minute or two more. Add the squash and water and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer until the squash is tender, 15 to 20 minutes.

2. While the squash is cooking, zest and juice the lime. Add about a teaspoon of the zest and 1 tablespoon of the juice to the pot (reserving the extra). When the squash is tender, stir in the coconut milk.

3. Transfer soup to a blender or food processor, then purée until smooth. Be careful when blending hot liquids.

4. Return all of the soup to the pot and reheat. Taste and adjust the flavour as you wish with spoonful of sugar, if desired, as well as additional lime juice and/or curry paste. Stir in the spinach and cilantro and heat until just wilted. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ (RECIPE ADAPTED FROM THE MOOSEWOOD COLLECTIVE'S MOOSEWOOD RESTAURANT FAVOURITES, 2013, ST. MARTIN'S GRIFFIN)**

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped yellow onions
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp peeled and grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp Thai red curry paste, or more to taste
- 2 1/2-lb butternut squash, peeled, seeded and chopped (about 6 cups)
- 3 cups water
- 1 lime
- 1 cup unsweetened coconut milk
- Sugar
- 2 cups baby spinach, cut into chiffonade
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro (optional)

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Thyme Gimlet

- 2 oz Belvedere vodka
- 3/4 oz thyme syrup*
- 3/4 oz lemon juice

Shake with cubed ice and strain over ice into a rocks glass. Garnish with lemon and thyme sprig.

***Thyme Syrup**

- 7-8 sprigs of fresh thyme
- 480 ml (16 oz) water
- 480 ml (16 oz) white sugar

Simmer thyme in the water for approximately 10 to 15 minutes or until you see the thyme go brown. Remove thyme and add sugar. Stir until dissolved. Cool and funnel into a glass bottle. Keep refrigerated. **COURTESY BELVEDERE VODKA**

Lunch or side dish. Spiced Squash

1. Cut squash in half crosswise and peel using a vegetable peeler. Remove seeds and chop squash to yield about 1.25 l (5 cups).

2. In a soup pot, heat oil over medium heat and cook onion and garlic for 3 minutes. Add squash, oregano, paprika and cinnamon and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Add broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for about 25 minutes or until squash is very tender.

3. Using immersion blender, purée soup until smooth. Alternatively, ladle into blender in batches and purée until smooth. Return to soup pot, stir in coriander and warm. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST**

Ingredients

- 1 small butternut squash (about 1 kg/2 lb)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 10 ml (2 tsp) dried oregano leaves
- 5 ml (1 tsp) paprika
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cinnamon
- 1.25 l (5 cups) vegetable broth
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh coriander

LOYALTY LOVE AFFAIR

Consumer loyalty programs have become an ingrained part of Canadian life. From the iconic Canadian Tire money to the latest digital smartphone wizardry, competition continues to evolve and raise the stakes for businesses and deliver benefits to consumers.

Canadians are global leaders in loyalty program participation. The average Canadian household is active in 9.2 programs. By comparison, the average American household is active in only 6.2 programs.

An ongoing study by Canadian research firm Abacus Data found that an astounding nine in 10 Canadian adults belong to loyalty programs.

"These statistics haven't really shifted much during the three surveys we conducted in 2013," says Sean Copeland, Abacus Data's director of consumer research. "We consistently see most Canadians using three or more rewards programs on a regular basis to collect points or miles for future redemption."

The most popular loyalty programs in Canada are Air Miles Rewards (seven in 10 Canadians), and the Shoppers Optimum program (three in 10 Canadians). While these cards won't disappear from Canadian wallets anytime soon, there are big changes on the horizon as Canadian businesses adjust to the shifting consumer loyalty landscape.

Research shows Canadians are most interested in loyalty programs that are simple, clear, and deliver instant rewards.

The American retail giant Target, currently opening stores in Canada, is taking heed. Target's "Red Card," a branded debit or credit card, gives shoppers an instant five per cent off at checkout for every purchase.

Target aims to not only draw new customers, but to also fill each shopping cart with a little more merchandise. Experts contend that the Red Card adds between one and two per cent to the total of each checkout at Target, and more established Canadian competitors are expected to follow suit with similar offers.

An emerging trend in consumer loyalty programs is the use of smartphone-based applications to replace physical cards.

Canada's largest grocer recently launched a new digital loyalty program targeting customers with individually tailored promotions. PC Plus, the Loblaw program, targets customers using their purchase histories, offering discounts on items they buy regularly, along with products they might be interested in, but need an incentive to try.

– Peter Doyle

CONSUMERS WANT MORE AND WANT IT NOW

While Canadians are still very much in love with consumer loyalty programs, it appears the relationship has moved into a new and more demanding phase.

Token gifts and promises are no longer enough — consumers now want bigger rewards, and expect to be able to access them sooner.

The attitude shift became clear following Loblaw's acquisition of Shoppers Drug Mart. Optimum, the pharmacy retailer's rewards card, is Canada's most popular customer reward program. When the acquisition was announced, Optimum members flooded social media sites and the program's call centre with their concerns. Both retail chains were forced to reassure consumers about the program's future.

"Canadians have grown up with loyalty programs in many circumstances, so there's almost an expectation," says Kevin O'Brien, chief commercial officer at Aeroplan Canada.

O'Brien is all too familiar with the potential consequences of failing to meet consumer expectations. In 2006, Aeroplan announced an expiry date for points accumulated under the program.

DMITRY KALINOVSKY/COLOURBOX

Not surprisingly, consumer reaction was intensely negative and Aeroplan's subsequent struggles led to a complete redesign of the program — and new credit card partners — earlier this year.

Clearly, consumers no longer consider rewards a simple perk; today, they expect to be properly compensated for their loyalty. Most members of customer loyalty programs recognize they are providing retailers with valuable information; they are determined to get something in return. Goodbye romance, hello interest-based negotiations.

A 2013 white paper published by Environics Research reflects just how much the loyalty program landscape has shifted. The paper reviewed 22 loyalty programs and outlines a new way to determine their relative value — a measure it calls "time to reward." The new measure takes into account both the potential value of reward points a consumer receives for a given purchase, as well as the amount of shopping required before "cashing in" those points.

"When it comes to loyalty programs, what is ultimately most important to the consumer is being able to understand how long it will take them to achieve their desired reward," the study states.

The report suggests that the best way to meet these expectations — and to retain members — is to provide consumers with opportunities to collect points quickly, such as through "double-dip" offers (twice the amount of rewards for buying specific products).

– Peter Doyle

REAP YOUR REWARDS FASTER

Loyalty programs offer the opportunity to be rewarded for purchases you make every day. However, with so many programs to choose from and so much information available, it is easy to miss out on the ones that would get you to your chosen reward faster.

To help clear through the clutter, a new, free online tool (compareloyaltyprograms.ca) asks a few simple questions and recommends up to three programs that will get you to your chosen rewards faster based on your preferred rewards, lifestyle and shopping habits. What's really new and unique about the tool is that it strategically evaluates cards based on "time to reward" or how quickly you can reach your desired reward.

According to the 2013 COLLOQUY Loyalty Census, the average Canadian household is involved in about eight loyalty programs. Rewards fall into three categories — cash, merchandise or travel — and, historically, people have signed up from the point-of-view of "how much do I have to spend in order to get rewards."

"But it's not just about the dividend or payout rate that these programs offer," says David MacDonald, group VP, custom/financial, Environics Research Group. "It's about how you accumulate points and how quickly you can get a reward of some sizable value to you."

The tool, which was created by Environics Research Group, is quick and simple to use. All you have to do is enter a bit of information about shopping preferences and habits, and which type of rewards you prefer. Then, the tool determines up to three Canadian loyalty programs or affiliated credit cards that are most likely to get you $100 in rewards faster.

The evaluation is based on substantial research into Canadians' habits using loyalty programs and what kinds of rewards they prefer, says Ken Wong, marketing professor at Queen's School of Business, Kingston, Ont., who reviewed and approved the research methodology.

"The tool provides just three cards to consider, and that is easier than consumers having to compare 20 or 30 programs."

Also, you can fill out the tool several times if you want to see how differences in shopping habits and choices impact the variables and the cards recommended.

"The three cards you are presented with make most sense for the spending patterns you have entered," MacDonald says.

HOW TO MAXIMIZE PROGRAMS

• Reduce the number of loyalty programs you belong to, says Frank Pons, professor of marketing, Laval University. "When people have a lot of loyalty programs and cards, the tendency is to disperse points. Cards are really efficient if you focus on just one or two specific programs."

• Aggregate your points. "The more often you use the same card, the more points you will accumulate, and the faster you will get rewards," says Ken Wong, marketing professor at Queen's School of Business.

HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

• Choose loyalty programs based on your lifestyle. If you have the same card you had as a student and now you are married with kids, you probably aren't taking full advantage of points. "Maybe one spouse should sign up for one rewards program and do most of the shopping in that category and the other person do another," says David MacDonald, group VP, custom/financial, Environics Research Group.

• Double dip. Take advantage of loyalty programs that are affiliated with a credit card. "I was using a loyalty card and an unaffiliated credit card, and that forced me to spread my points rather than put them together and double up points," Wong says.

• Be wise with credit. Credit card programs can be a great way to super-charge your time to reward — there are often additional bonus rewards simply by using the credit card. But if you don't pay off the credit card balance every month, Pons says, you end up paying interest and not making a lot of money.

TOP 20 IN CANADA

Here are the top 20 loyalty programs by percentage of usage in Canada, based on the percentage of Canadians who collected rewards over a three-month period in 2012.

• AIR MILES Reward Program — 68 per cent
• Shoppers Optimum — 30 per cent
• HBC Rewards — 26 per cent
• Canadian Tire Money — 23 per cent
• Aeroplan — 23 per cent
• PETRO-POINTS — 18 per cent
• PC Points — 13 per cent
• Scene — 10 per cent
• Club Sobeys — 10 per cent
• Sears Card — 10 per cent
• Esso Extra — eight per cent
• CAA — seven per cent
• Save-On-More — seven per cent
• Plum Rewards — seven per cent
• RBC Rewards — seven per cent
• Best Buy Rewards — six per cent
• RBC Avion — three per cent
• Desjardins — three per cent
• AMEX Rewards — three per cent
• Walmart Rewards — three per cent

Interrogation differentiation: Who's turning up at the interview table?

A room with a 'view.
Five types of tough interviewers and how to handle each

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Walking into an interview is not the most relaxing activity out there.

This is partly because interviews come with many unknowns.

What questions will an interviewer ask? What skills should you focus on? How long will the interview be?

One of the biggest unknowns when going into an interview is: what will the interviewer be like?

An interviewer's personality can be a hard thing to predict until you actually come face to face in the interview. To help you be savvy to the types of interviewers you might face as a student or new grad on the job hunt, here are a few dominant interviewer personality types and how to adjust successfully to them on the spot.

Rambling

A rambler is an interviewer who is chatty, friendly and outgoing.

Though this behaviour may be a relief when you first start the interview, try not to let your guard down too much.

In order to ensure that you're able to communicate the information that matters (skills, experience and so on), you'll need to single out the relevant aspects of the discussion and answer each question concisely and skillfully.

Shy

Usually it's the interviewee who feels shy, but interviewers can be a ball of nerves as well.

If you encounter a shy interviewer, the main thing is to understand that this is just their personality — not that you're performing poorly. Shy interviewers can be hard to read, difficult to create a conversation with and may wrap up the entire thing quickly.

The smart thing to do in this situation is to pick up on their personality type right away so you don't panic. To ease the atmosphere, try to be friendly, put them at ease and end in a positive way with a handshake.

Harsh

The great thing about this type of interviewer personality is that you'll recognize it the moment you walk in the door, which gives you more time to adjust successfully.

With questions being fired rapidly, an edgy tone and intimidating body language it can be easy to unravel on the spot. The key to magnificently performing with a harsh interviewer is to keep your composure.

Take your time to answer each question, speak in a calm and paced manner and minimize small talk.

Inexperienced

Shaky hands, questions that don't flow together, quick exits and awkward conversations are all signs of an inexperienced or unprepared interviewer.

As the interviewee this can be surprising, but the key to having a stellar interview with an inexperienced interviewer is not being thrown off track. With this type of interviewer you need to be sure that even though they might not be addressing questions that allow you to showcase your information, you do it yourself.

Keep to your key points of discussion, relate them back to the position at hand in plain language and treat the interviewer professionally in order to keep things on track.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Don't let these two tough talkers intimidate you. Keeping calm and carrying on will show them you're ready to cruise into this career. ISTOCK

And last but not least...

Nosy interviewers tend to unintentionally stray away from work-related questions during an interview.

- They may be trying to get you to reveal a little too much about your personality and life outside of work, or they may just be naturally inquisitive. In either case, you have to bring them back to the focus of the interview: you.
- You can usually figure out that you're being interviewed by a nosy interviewer within the first few minutes of the interview.
- Avoid being drawn into answering personal questions with noncommittal or brief answers and a polite return to the topic at hand.

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Sandusky scandal

Penn State settles with abuse victims

At least 19 young men have settled with Penn State over assertions of abuse by former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky, according to lawyers for the claimants.

Many, if not all of them, have received cheques from the university, the attorneys said over the past two days. The school has set aside some $60 million to pay claims, though several lawyers say the settlements prevent them from disclosing details, including the amounts their clients were paid.

Sandusky, 69, the school's longtime assistant football coach under Joe Paterno, is serving 30 to 60 years in prison for sexually abusing 10 boys over 15 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey

Harper: Authorities have been letting fighting slide

Stephen Harper has dropped his prime ministerial gloves and put on his hockey historian's helmet to wade in on the subject of violence in Canada's most popular sport.

And he did so from a beach-front hotel in Bali, Indonesia, of all places.

Harper, who has a book out next month on the early history of pro hockey, said it's a rough sport but he's an admirer of skill over brawn.

"I do think that authorities have historically not taken their responsibility to try and keep the rough, tough part of the game within the rules," Harper said, adding he's concerned about head shots.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

"The last three years of not getting to go (to the playoffs) really taught me to embrace this opportunity."

Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, who started on three days rest Monday in L.A.'s 4-3 NLDS series-clinching win over Atlanta.

Tigers rally past A's with a little help from their friends

MLB. Disputed home run stands as Detroit forces Game 5 in Oakland on Thursday

Game 4

Tigers	Athletics
8	6

The Detroit Tigers are heading back to California with the help of Max Scherzer and some fans in right field.

Scherzer escaped a major jam during a relief outing to remember — one inning after two fans reached out to try to reel in Victor Martinez's disputed home run — and the Tigers rallied past the Oakland Athletics 8-6 on Tuesday to force a decisive fifth game in their AL division series.

Playing catch-up most of the way, the Tigers tied it first with Jhonny Peralta's three-run homer in the fifth inning and then on Martinez's solo shot in the seventh. A couple of fans attempted to catch Martinez's drive, and at least one of them bobbled the ball as he reached over the railing above the wall, preventing right-fielder Josh Reddick from having any chance at a leaping grab.

Reddick and centre-fielder Coco Crisp immediately protested, pointing up at the stands in the hope of a fan-interference call. But umpires upheld the home run after a replay review.

Scherzer, making his first relief appearance since the 2011 post-season, gave up a run in the seventh and got in trouble again in the eighth. With the Tigers ahead 5-4, he allowed a walk and a double to start the inning, but after an intentional walk to load the bases, manager Jim Leyland left his 21-game winner on the mound.

Scherzer struck out Reddick and Stephen Vogt before getting pinch-hitter Alberto Callaspo to line out to centre.

Detroit, which had no hits through the first four innings, added three runs in the eighth on a wild pitch and a two-run double by Omar Infante that made it 8-4.

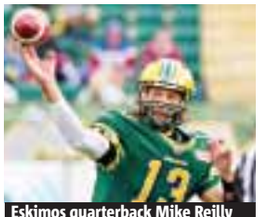
Yoenis Cespedes hit a two-run single in the ninth, bringing the potential tying run to the plate, but Joaquin Benoit struck out Seth Smith to end it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Victor Martinez looks skyward after hitting a solo home run in the Tigers' 8-6 win over the A's on Tuesday in Detroit.

LON HORWEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reilly 'not an idiot' when it comes to safety



Eskimos quarterback Mike Reilly

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmonton Eskimos quarterback Mike Reilly said Tuesday he will start Saturday against Saskatchewan, and dismissed suggestions the team rushed him back too quickly last week from a concussion.

"Being a competitor and a guy that loves the game and tries to play with as much passion as you can, you don't ever want to come off the field," Reilly said after practice at Commonwealth Stadium.

"But at the same time, I'm not an idiot. I've looked at what has happened to guys that have come back too early (from concussions). I've seen the newspaper articles about guys committing suicide, having issues with concussions down the road.

"As much as I love this game, I'm not going to put myself in a bad position."

Reilly was concussed on Sept. 28 when he took a pile-driving helmet-to-helmet blow to the back of his head against the Toronto Argonauts.

Four days later, he was cleared to practice, and three days after that he was starting against the Montreal Alouettes, despite criticism from fans and media that he was being rushed back in a futile attempt to salvage a lost season.

Those fears were stoked when the Eskimos ran essentially a Reilly-lite offence in the loss to Montreal, abandoning his successful scrambling style to keep him in the pocket to throw quick "one steamboat" passes and avoid contact.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DRIVE 5

The 2013 Acura TL

Review. Acura's top sport sedan is looking great and getting old gracefully

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

The fourth-generation Acura TL launched for model-year 2009, and is due to be replaced any time by a new, fifth-generation machine. It's far from the freshest or newest model in its segment — but the current Acura TL is one of the most established.

That's thanks in no small part to its delivery of performance, technology and everyday sensibility alongside two things premium shoppers love: an honest price tag, and a promise of reliable, no-nonsense ownership thanks to Acura's gleaming reputation for reliability.

The gist? The TL is getting old these days, but it remains a staple product in its segment that's well-deserving of a test-drive. The looks might still be controversial, but the TL remains a great machine to drive, and a car special to the Acura brand. The current-generation TL put Super Handling All Wheel Drive (SH-AWD) technology into the mainstream luxury sedan market. And, though it was late to the game, it pushed Acura sedans past the 300-horsepower mark at long last.

All of this exists in a highly-usable package. There's generous room for four adults, plenty of at-hand storage, and a great looking, three-dimensional look to the instrument cluster, dashboard and controls. In all, you get unique styling that very much does its own thing while creating a distinctively upscale, techy atmosphere. Proper cupholders, deep door bins and a sense of always having a place for your stuff help round out the package.

Key competitors include the BMW 5-Series, Audi A6 and Infiniti G37. Though not pack-leading where output is concerned, the big V6 is very pleasing to listen to and really piles on the juice at high revs as the VTEC power-cam kicks in. The six-speed automatic works well with the engine for smoothness and response, supporting a sporty but very refined character.

The SH-AWD system, as noted on numerous other test-drives, has benefits which are two-fold. First, on slippery stuff, it finds surprising levels of traction — using sophisticated computer controls and fast-acting magnetic clutch packs to extract the most forward momentum from the ground beneath. Second, when drivers push the TL's limits a little, the system "overdrives" the inside rear wheel, which slightly slides the tail out and points the nose inwards in a sort of mini-drift.

Translation? You get playful agility and locked-on confidence, depending on what your right foot is up to on the surface in question.

That's all directed by a heavyset steering system that confidently transmits a sense of agility and playfulness to the driver, too. End of the day, few sedans are this all-out confident and discreetly entertaining when pushed hard.

Powerful and fairly communicative brakes back up the performance capabilities — and when you're on a relaxing drive, wind and road noise levels are kept adequately in check, as is fuel consumption. This engine might not have all the latest fuel-saving gadgets, but I still averaged under 10 lites per 100 km over the course of a week.

Other notes? The xenon projector lights are fantastic, and the big doors and big comfy seats make this an easy car to get in and out of, even many times per day. Finally, blind-spot monitoring and a slew of fully-automatic or voice-commanded features on the "Elite" grade test model I drove added a sense of effortless relaxation on lengthy road trips.

Numerous competitors are more modern-looking, both inside and out. A comparable Audi or Lexus will boast a more striking cabin, and a comparable BMW or Mercedes will likely prove more all-out comfortable.

The new TL has yet to be seen — but for the time being, shoppers after a car that's discreetly sporty, offers a proven reputation, delivers plenty of character and delivers a pleasing overall driving experience should add the current TL to their "to test drive" list.

ALL PHOTOS JUSTIN PRITCHARD

2013 Acura TL

- **Fuel economy.** 9.9L /100km
- **Engines (hp).** 3.7L V6, 305 horsepower, VTEC.
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** (TL SH-AWD Elite) $49,450

Key strengths

This isn't a machine that begs for attention, but rather focuses on sensibility and a quiet, confident demeanor. And, though high-tech and sporty, the TL is easy to drive, easy to learn and requires nothing of the driver when they'd prefer to relax and enjoy a peaceful drive.

Key complaints

Simply, it's getting old. The navigation and infotainment read-outs are due for an overhaul, and so are many of the controls and interfaces on board. More power would help the TL earn the dollars of driving enthusiasts, and the lack of folding rear seats limits cargo carrying capacity.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It's not like you to be so trusting but you are determined to see the best in people and your faith in human nature, temporary though it may be, will be rewarded today.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may have a pile of work to finish but shove it all to one side and worry about it at a later date. Most likely that "later" will never arrive and you'll be glad you did not waste time on trivia.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Wherever you go over the next 24 hours, people will greet you with open arms. Why are you suddenly so popular? Because of your sunny nature, of course, and because you are rarely judgmental.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are getting obsessive about something and it's not healthy. It's unlikely you will just give up on it, so maybe you should indulge it — and get it out of your system.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You don't have to carry the world on your shoulders. Friends and colleagues will make life easier for you today, but they will only succeed if you meet them halfway.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You could easily spend lots of money and have nothing to show for it, so maybe you should leave your credit cards at home.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
People you meet today may not be very talkative but you will know exactly what they are thinking. If there is one thing you are good at, it is reading body language.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Scorpio is a sensitive sign and that sensitivity can be both a blessing and a curse. Which one it is today depends on how easily you let yourself be annoyed by petty events.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You'll need to employ a certain amount of critical thinking over the next 24 hours, especially when dealing with new ideas, as some people may find them a bit outrgeous.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You're in a friendly mood and that's good because the more you smile and say nice things the more you'll get the kind of offers you like. What kind are they? The kind that pay lots of money!

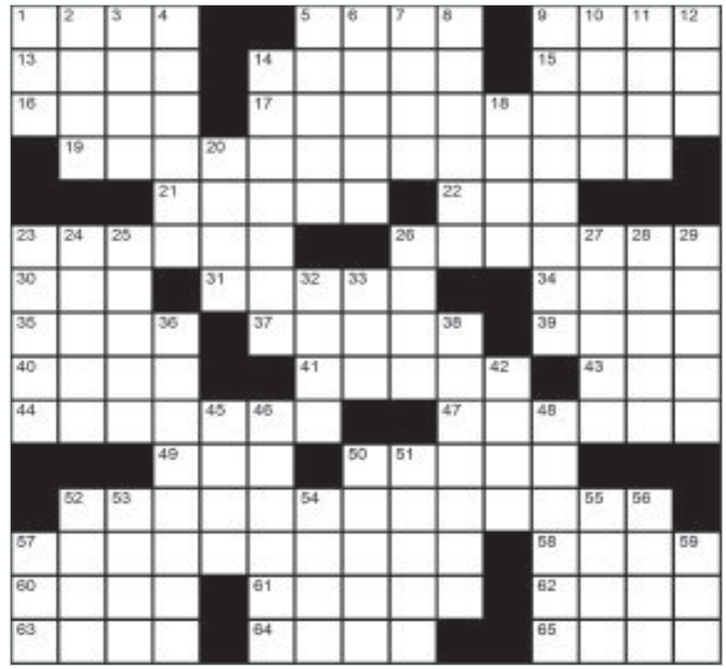
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will be impatient with people who get in your way today but hopefully not so impatient that you start a fight. Slow down, calm down and try not to take little things personally — they're not.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you are confused about something then you must speak up, even though you don't like to admit to your ignorance in front of other people. The important thing is to get it right. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

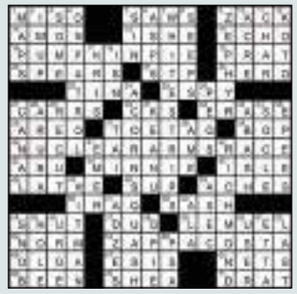
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Gordon Pinsent's actress daughter
5. French words?
9. Konvicted rapper
13. Inventor, Thomas __ Edison
14. Flashdance (1983) star Michael
15. Ms. Downey of Touched by an Angel
16. Gladiator's 554
17. Bit of Ramble On by Led Zeppelin: "The __ __ lights my way."
19. Canadian actress who played Lily Munster: 3 wds.
21. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
22. Provincial song: __ to Newfoundland
23. Ornamental tree
26. Hip-Hop group, __ Boys
30. Ohh's kin
31. Moderner
34. Salon shade
35. Rattling sound from the chest
37. Shave the sheep
39. Comic actor Mr. Green
40. _.__ (British band)
41. Sarah McLachlan song
43. Mr. Gershwin
44. Caustic talk
47. Filet __
49. "Let me think..."
50. John Hersey's bell town
52. Madonna's pre-concerts rituals: 2 wds.
57. Fluently-bilingual-person job title
58. Minstrel's instrument
60. __ Kong
61. Comedian/actor Denis
62. Russian river
63. Border
64. Leaky balloon sounds
65. Tommy James & The Shondells tune, when repeated

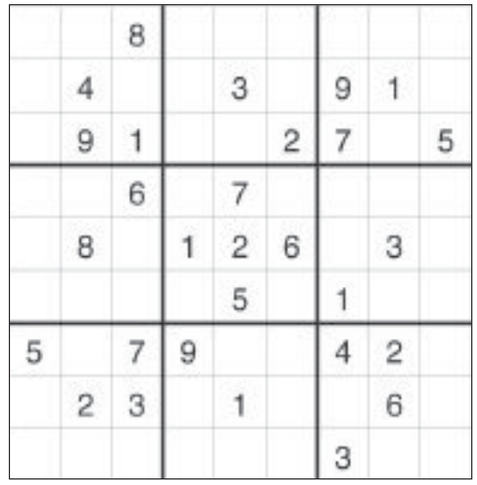
Down
1. Chap
2. Jed Clampett's daughter, __ May
3. Tel __
4. Mayhems
5. Pouting grimaces
6. Perform better than
7. Genuine
8. Big lake in Ontario
9. Captain's chair
10. Parts
10. __-Aid (Fun drink)
11. Herman Melville story
12. Book publisher, __ A. Talese
14. Jobs like filmdom's Miss McPhee's
18. Zippo
20. Flatbread variety
23. The Simpsons kid, and namesakes
24. Catherine of SCTV
25. Winnipeg Jet, e.g.
26. Talk big
27. Marketing link: 2 wds.
28. Short start?
29. Mr. Hawke
32. Brit pop duo!
33. Literary contraction
36. Toronto Stock __
38. Take the plunge again
42. The Mod Squad character, __ Hayes
45. Songstress Ms. Grant's
46. Uses one's nose
48. J.R.R. Tolkien character in the song at #17-Across
50. __ __ a go between (Mediate)
51. Gowns by designer Christian
52. Nudge
53. Called
54. Charlotte of TV, and others
55. Certain monetary unit
56. Saxophonist Mr. Getz
57. British band, when doubled
59. Cathedral city

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	8	5	9	3	1	4	6
9	1	4	8	6	2	5	3	7
5	6	3	4	7	1	9	2	8
8	3	9	6	1	7	4	5	2
7	4	6	9	2	5	3	8	1
1	2	5	3	8	4	7	6	9
4	9	2	1	3	6	8	7	5
3	8	7	2	5	9	6	1	4
6	5	1	7	4	8	2	9	3

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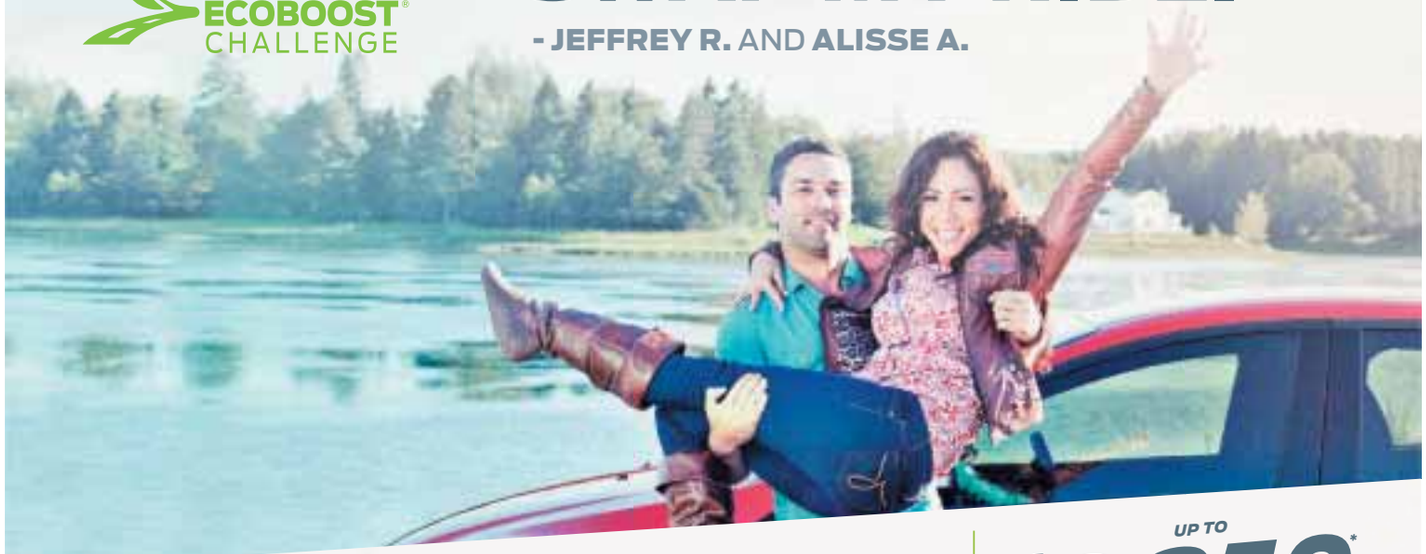
- JEFFREY R. AND ALISSE A.



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OR

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2013 **FOCUS** SE SPORT WITH APPEARANCE PACKAGE

PURCHASE FINANCE FOR **$99^ @ 0.99%** APR

Bi-weekly for 84 months with **$0 down**.

Offer includes $750 Winter Safety Package cash alternative and $500 manufacturer rebate. Offer excludes freight and air tax.

5.1L/100km **55MPG** HWY** / 7.6L/100km **37MPG** CITY**

ALL SE FEATURES LOADED WITH EVEN MORE VALUE:
/// Spoiler
/// Fog Lamps with Chrome Bezel
/// 16" Alloy Wheels

Built after December 2012

2013 **FUSION** S

PURCHASE FINANCE FOR **$132^ @ 3.99%** APR

Bi-weekly for 84 months with **$0 down**.

OR CASH PURCHASE FOR ONLY **$20,999***

Offers include $750 Winter Safety Package cash alternative and exclude freight and air tax.

5.8L/100km **49MPG** HWY** / 9.2L/100km **31MPG** CITY**

2014 **ESCAPE** S FWD 2.5L

PURCHASE FINANCE FOR **$135^ @ 2.49%** APR

Bi-weekly for 84 months with **$0 down**.

OR CASH PURCHASE FOR ONLY **$22,499***

OR LEASE FOR **48** MONTHS^ AT **0%** APR

Offers include $750 Winter Safety Package cash alternative and $500 manufacturer rebate. Offers exclude freight and air tax.

6.3L/100km **45MPG** HWY** / 9.5L/100km **30MPG** CITY**

PLUS

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Winter Safety Package††

UP TO $1,800 (MSRP) VALUE

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Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is $520.83/ $416.66/ $347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. ± Until October 31, 2013, lease a new 2013 Ford Edge (excluding SE) for up to 36 months with an optional buyout of $23,200 (40% of MSRP) at 0% APR equals 260 bi-weekly payments of $89.23. $2,500 ($3,000 on Edge Limited AWD) due at lease signing or delivery. Lease offer includes $1,000 lease cash. Total lease obligation is $25,180 ($25,680 on Edge Limited AWD). Option to purchase at end of lease for $23,200. Lessee responsible for $0.10/km over 20,000 km/year. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change. See your local dealer for details. Offer available on approved lease applications for new 2013 Ford Escape, Focus (excluding ST), Fusion, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus X, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Expedition and Navigator. Offer excludes Police Interceptor Utility, Police Interceptor Sedan, Transit Connect, Transit Wagon, Transit Cargo Van, F-150 SVT Raptor, Mustang Boss 302, Mustang GT500, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). The Eligible Vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, is subject to vehicle availability, and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Only one (1) offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Offer is not combinable with any CPA/CPO or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFP). Applicable taxes calculated before $1,000 ($2,000 on Edge Limited AWD) offer is deducted. ††Receive a winter safety package which includes: four (4) winter tires, four (4) steel wheels and four (4) tire pressure monitoring sensors when you purchase or lease any new 2013/2014 Ford Focus (excluding S and Focus Electric), Escape, Fusion, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus X, Edge, Flex, Explorer F-Series, MKS, MKX, MK2, MKT and Transit Connect; 20kg per km for Expedition and Navigator plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change, see your local dealer for details. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. *Purchase a new 2013 [Focus SE SportFusion S] 2014 [Escape S FWD 2.5L] for [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] (after Total Manufacturer Rebate of [$500/$9]/[$500] deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offer includes charges for freight and air tax ([$1,700] but excludes options, license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI (except in Quebec), PPSA (if financed or leased), administration fees, any other applicable environmental charges/fees and taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^ Until December 2, 2013, receive [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [Focus SE SportFusion S]/2014 [Escape S FWD 2.5L] models for up to [84/84]/[72] months to qualified customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] purchase financed at [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR, [$99/$520]/[$347] monthly payment, [$215.62/$2,599]/[$1,262] cost of borrowing, [$99/$520]/[$347] bi-weekly payments, [$215.62/$2,599]/[$1,262] after total price adjustments of: Winter Safety Package cash alternative of [$750/$750]/[$750] and delivery allowance of [$500/$849]/[$500]), the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives [a bi-weekly payment of [$99/$520]/[$347], interest cost of borrowing is [$609/$3,120]/[$2,071] or [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR, [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] purchase price, [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] amount of credit, [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] total obligations, [84/84]/[72] months, 14th [$0/$80]/[$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$2,215.62/$2,599]/[$1,262] after total price adjustments of: Winter Safety Package cash alternative of [$750/$750]/[$750] and delivery allowance of [$500/$849]/[$500]), the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives [a bi-weekly payment of [$99/$520]/[$347], interest cost of borrowing is [$609/$3,120]/[$2,071] or [0.99%/3.99%]/[2.49%] APR, [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] purchase price, [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] amount of credit, [$17,249/$20,999]/[$22,499] total obligations, [84/84]/[72] months, 14th [$0/$80]/[$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$